

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 TRSE-00 JUSE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00

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P 101903Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8615

C O N F I D E N T I A L NASSAU 1439

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PFOR CFED BF

SUBJ: NASSAU HERALD ALLEGATIONS

REF: STATE 223808

1. EMBASSY PLEASED TO NOTE FROM REFTEL THAT "NO IRS AGENTS HAVE BEEN IN BAHAMAS ON OFFICIALLY AUTHORIZED BUSINESS IN CONNECTION WITH PRODUCTION OF 60 MINUTES PROGRAM. WE REGRET THAT MESSAGE FAILED TO MAKE EXPLICIT THAT NO IRS AGENTS WERE HERE UNOFFICIALLY IN THIS CONNECTION OR OFFICIALLY OR UNOFFICIALLY ON ANY OTHER MATTER WITHOUT THE DEPARTMENT'S AND EMBASSY'S PRIOR KNOWLEDGE.

2. PURSUANT TO PARA 3 OF REFTEL, EMBASSY DELIVERED THIS MORNING FOLLOWING COMMUNICATION TO HERALD EDITOR MICHAEL SYMONETTE:

"THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA HAS NOTED AN ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN VOLUME 1, NUMBER 29 OF THE HERALD ALLEGING COLLUSION BETWEEN AN AGENT OF THE UNITED STATES INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE AND THE COLUMBIA BROADCASTING SYSTEM, PRODUCERS OF THE TELEVISION PROGRAM "60 MINUTES". THE EMBASSY HEREBY CATEGORICALLY DENIES ANY SUCH COLLUSION AND WISHES TO EMPHASIZE THAT UNDER CURRENT PROCEDURES NO INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE AGENT VISITS THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS WITHOUT INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE AND EMBASSY CLEARANCE."

SYMONETTE'S COMMENTS AND INTENDED FUTURE ACTIONS ARE SUBJECT
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OF SEPTTEL.

3. EMBASSY ALSO INFORMED MINEXTAFF PERMSEC RUSSELL OF ABOVE COMMUNICATION AND REITERATED ORALLY OUR CATEGORICAL DENIAL OF COLLUSION. PERMSEC ALSO MADE AWARE THAT WE CONSIDER HERALD'S PUBLICATION OF THIS PALPABLY INACCURATE AND TENDENTIOUS ARTICLE MOST UNFORTUNATE AND UNTIMELY GIVEN THE "NATURE OF THE HERALD'S ROLE IN THE BAHAMAS" (I.E., PLP MOUTHPIECE) AND PARTICULARLY GIVEN RECENT CONVERSATION BETWEEN MINEXTAFF AND EMBASSY OFFICER TO EFFECT AN ORDERED AND ACCEPTABLE PROCEDURE FOR IRS TO CARRY OUT ITS LAWFUL MISSION IN BAHAMAS. RUSSELL, WHO PROFESSED NOT TO HAVE SEEN ARTICLE OR HEARD IT DISCUSSED, AGREED THAT ITS PUBLICATION WAS "ANYTHING BUT HELPFUL" AND ASSURED EMBASSY THAT "PEOPLE WITH WHOM EMBASSY HAD SPOKEN CONCERNING REGULARIZATION OF IRS PROCEDURES IN BAHAMAS (I.E., HIMSELF AND MINISTER ADDERLEY) HAD NO KNOWLEDGE WHATSOEVER OF HERALD'S INTENT TO PUBLISH ARTICLE.

TAYLOR

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Message Attributes

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